In The Claims

Kindly cancel all the as filed claims.

Kindly insert the following claims:

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--18. A multi-bit driver comprising:

(a) a longitudinally oriented housing including a bit chuck having an hexagonal receiving channel at one end;

(b) a plurality of hexagonal tool bits nested within said housing in a retracted position;

(c) an actuating means for selectively extending said tool bits to an extended position and retracting said tool bits to said retracted position, such that in the extended position, said tool bits project from said hexagonal receiving channel of said bit chuck and are substantially longitudinally aligned with said housing;

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(d) wherein said actuating means further includes at least one bit assembly including at least one bit extension operably connected at one end to each of said tool bits and at the other end to a fastening means for operatively urging said tool bits between said extended and retracted position and for maintaining alignment of said tool bits with said bit chuck;

(e) said fastening means for slidably connecting said bit extension to actuator channels defined in said housing such that said bit extension is guided slidably along said actuator channel;

(f) wherein said bit extension being flexible in the radial direction and stiffer in the transverse or lateral direction for guiding said tool bit into said bit chuck by allowing said tool bit to deflect radially up or down but resistive to deflection transversely side to side such that said tool bit remains aligned longitudinally and operative for ensuring positive registration with said bit chuck as said tool bit is urged into said extended position.

19. The multi-bit driver claimed in claim 18 , wherein said bit extension having a planar profile with a width greater than the thickness.

20. The multi-bit driver claimed in claim 18, wherein said bit extension having a thickness to width ratio of at least 1:1.5.

21. The multi-bit driver claimed in claim 18, wherein said bit extension constructed of a flexible resilient material such that it is flexible in the radial direction and stiffer in the transverse or lateral direction.

22. The multi-bit driver claimed in claim 18, wherein said actuating means operates to extend said tool bit by longitudinal motion in one direction and retract said tool bit by longitudinal motion in the opposite direction, wherein said longitudinal motion is effected using a single finger or thumb pressure.

23. The multi-bit driver claimed in claim 18, wherein said fastening means comprises an actuator knob partially projecting externally of said housing for the application of finger pressure thereto, said actuator knob also for connecting a fastener end of said bit assembly to said actuator knob for operatively urging said bit assembly slidably along said actuator channel.

24. The multi-bit driver claimed in claim 18, wherein said housing including a cone proximate said bit chuck having an interior guide surface for slidably guiding tool bits into alignment with said bit chuck as tool bits are urged into said extended position.

25. The multi-bit driver claimed in claim 18, further including a guide means for maintaining said bit assemblies separate and nested proximate the inner surface of said housing, and for guiding said bit assemblies as they are urged between the extended and retracted position.

26. The multi-bit driver claimed in claim 25 wherein said guide means includes permanent magnets mounted in said housing for magnetically attracting said tool bits and for maintaining said bit assemblies separate and nested proximate the inner surface of said housing, and for guiding said bit assemblies as they are urged between the extended and retracted position.

27. The multi-bit driver claimed in claim 18, further including a locking means for locking said tool bit in said extended position.

28. The multi-bit driver claimed in claim 24, wherein said cone portion being disposed between said retracted tool bits and said bit chuck for guiding tool bits into alignment with said bit chuck as tool bits are urged into said extended position.

29. The multi-bit driver claimed in claim 24, wherein said cone being integrally part of said housing and including a conically shaped interior guide surface tapering inwardly towards said bit chuck for guiding tool bits into alignment with said bit chuck as tool

bits are urged into said extended position.

30. The multi-bit driver claimed in claim 26, wherein said guide means including a guide including guide faces for slideably receiving said bit assemblies, thereby maintaining said bit assemblies spaced apart within said housing.

31. The multi-bit driver claimed in claim 25, wherein, said guide connected to said housing with a guide support which is connected at one end to said guide and at the other end to an end cap.

32. A multi-bit driver comprising;
(a) a longitudinally aligned generally cylindrical housing;
(b) a plurality of bit assemblies each including a tool bit, said bit assemblies incorporated in said housing;
(c) said housing including a means for releasably holding said tool bits at one end of said housing; and
(d) an actuating means for selectively extending tool bits to an extended position and retracting said tool bits to said retracted position, such that in the extended position, said tool bits project from said holding means wherein said bit assemblies are operably slideably attached to said housing.
(e) wherein each bit assembly includes a bit extension connected at one end to each tool bit and at the other end operably slideably connected to said housing said bit assembly adapted such that the tool bit can be easily deflected radially and resistive to lateral deflection to operably align said tool bits with said holding means as said tool bit urged into said extended position.

33. The multi-bit driver claimed in claim 32, wherein the housing includes a cone disposed between said retracted tool bits and said holding means for guiding and deflecting tool bits into alignment with said holding means as tool bits are urged into said extended position.

34. The multi-bit driver claimed in claim 32, wherein said actuating means being operable to slideably extend said tool bits from said retracted position to said extended position by a single longitudinal motion of said actuating means.

35. The multi-bit driver claimed in claim 32 wherein said actuating means connected to said tool bits being operable to retract said tool bits from said extended position to said retracted position by a single longitudinal motion of said actuating means.

36. The multi-bit driver claimed in claim 32, wherein said actuating means operates to extend said tool bit by longitudinal motion in one direction and retract said tool bit by longitudinal motion in the opposite direction.

37. The multi-bit driver claimed in claim 32, wherein said bit extension is connected at one end to said tool bit and at the other end slideably to an actuator channel defined in said housing, wherein said actuator channel for slidably guiding one end of said bit assemblies along said actuator channel during extension and retraction of said bit assemblies.

38. The multi-bit driver claimed in claim 37, wherein said bit extension including an actuator knob partially projecting externally of said housing for the application of finger pressure thereto, said knob being operably connected to a fastener end of said bit assembly and slideably attached to said actuator channel, such that operatively being said knob slideably along said actuator channel operatively longitudinally urges said tool bits.--